

**UNHCR EGYPT**

**SUDAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE**

1 June 2023



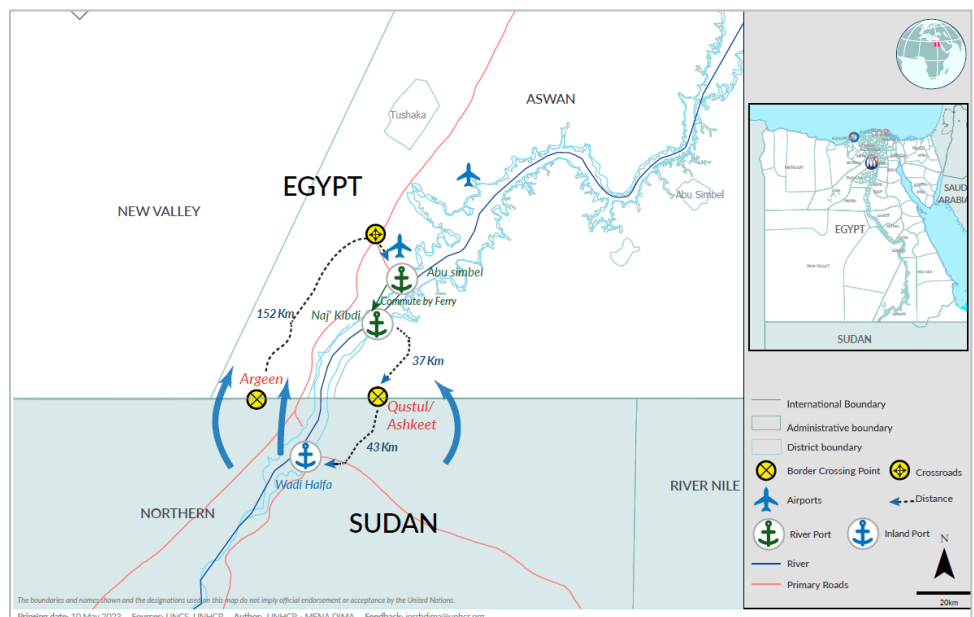
During his mission to Egypt, the High Commissioner speaks to a Sudanese refugee in the border crossing of Qustol. The newly displaced woman experienced dire conditions while spending 12 days in Halfa before arriving in Egypt. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

 **164,000**

Sudanese have entered Egypt from Sudan via the two official border crossings, Argeen and Qustol, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
As of 30 May

 **\$25.2 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements for the [Sudan emergency response in Egypt](#).



## OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

- As of 30 May, over 170,000 people have entered Egypt from Sudan since 15 April, comprising 164,000 Sudanese individuals and 5,565 third-country nationals, as reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNHCR.
- The High Commissioner [concluded](#) a three-day visit to Egypt with an urgent call for support for people fleeing Sudan. During his mission, the HC highlighted that Egypt has absorbed half of the refugee outflow from Sudan regionally, against the backdrop of a growing economic crisis. On 28 May, the HC met with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to appeal for more support from Arab states, notably Gulf countries. During his meeting with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the HC expressed appreciation for Egypt's considerable support to the crisis. He also appealed to Egypt to keep its borders open without distinction to those fleeing violence.
- UNHCR has recently released the [Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan](#), which seeks to mobilize \$470.4 million to support refugees, returnees and host communities in Egypt, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Around 25% of this appeal (\$ 114 million) is allocated to Egypt to support the work of 25 partners including UNHCR for six months. So far, the appeal is only 1% funded. Meanwhile, UNHCR's [supplementary appeal for the Sudan emergency](#) seeks \$253.9 million, including **\$25.2 million** for Egypt, aimed at supporting government-led efforts to address the protection and urgent needs of refugees. The supplementary appeal is barely funded as of end-May.

## UNHCR Emergency Response

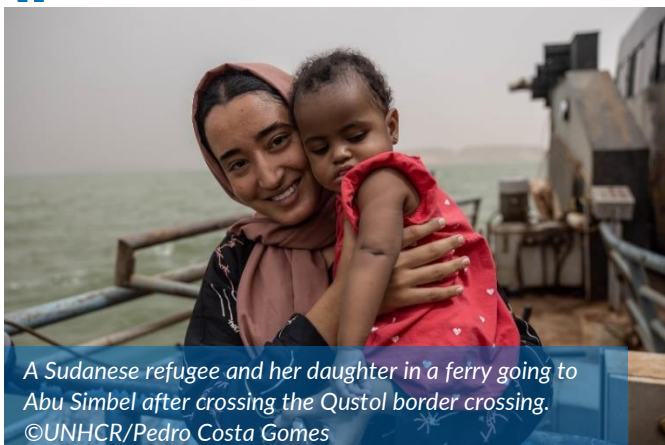
UNHCR is strengthening its engagement and coordination leadership with partners in Cairo as well as in the south and border areas, while continuing to engage local authorities and community-based organizations to assess the needs and scope of the response. Two technical inter-sector working groups (ISWG), one in Aswan and one in Cairo, have now been established and meet on a weekly basis to report any issue that needs the attention of the inter-agency working group.

Key issues raised at the ISWGs surround the vulnerability targeting criteria used by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF and the reporting of activities in the ActivityInfo platform to avoid duplications. During the last meeting, UNHCR also raised the pressing need to mainstream protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) with all humanitarian workers, including through support from the RC and the PSEA Network, co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM. UNHCR, jointly with WHO, finalized a service mapping exercise of the main health services/facilities in Aswan and Abu Simbel, aimed at increasing capacity to assist those in need of health support.

## Sector highlights



### Protection



A Sudanese refugee and her daughter in a ferry going to Abu Simbel after crossing the Qustol border crossing.  
 ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

UNHCR continues to observe a significant increase in the number of vulnerable Sudanese individuals seeking refuge in Egypt. Most of these new arrivals are women, children, and elderly individuals who have depleted their resources while fleeing Sudan. UNHCR continues to place efforts in the improvement of the reception conditions at both border crossing points. In this regard, four rub halls have been delivered to UNHCR's partner the Egypt Red Crescent (ERC) for further installation in the two border points of Qustol and Argeen. Meanwhile, installation of benches in Qustol and Argeen are also being finalized. These improvements will enable new arrivals to rest and benefit from the services delivered by UNHCR through ERC.

During the reporting week, UNHCR has stepped up its protection presence at the border to better understand the admission policies, help with the identification of vulnerable cases, and tailor interventions where applicable. UNHCR, along with partner ERC, is reviewing the existing gender-based violence (GBV) response at the borders and in coordination with the GBV sub-sector. The mapping of the existing relevant services and the development of referral pathways for GBV survivors are ongoing including sensitization among frontliners at the border as well deployment of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits.

On 30 May, UNHCR started distribution of a one-off emergency cash assistance to new arrivals from Sudan. Thus far, 337 of the most vulnerable newly arrived families, comprising 568 individuals, have received a one-off emergency cash payment equivalent to USD \$46.6 per individual. A further 161 families (385 individuals) have been identified to receive emergency support through this cash assistance intervention. Meanwhile, UNHCR is also assessing unregistered Sudanese in Alexandria, Aswan, and Cairo for the provision of the one-off emergency cash assistance. Cash support has consistently been identified by refugees as one of the most effective ways to address their main current needs, such as immediate shelter and medical care.

## Registration

Over 11,000 individuals who approached UNHCR so far have been given registration appointments. While the previous two weeks recorded a daily average of 500 individuals applying for asylum, during this reporting week an increase in this average is being observed, with more than 800 individuals approaching UNHCR for registration. In the next few weeks, the daily number of individuals seeking to apply for asylum is expected to steadily increase. UNHCR has scaled up registration capacity to respond to the demand.



*Sudanese family who recently fled their country seek safety in Cairo, Egypt. ©UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes*

## Core relief items

UNHCR, through the Egypt Red Crescent (ERC), is providing emergency assistance at the border. This includes supporting the ERC to scale up the range of services they can offer at the border, including the distribution of water and hygiene items. As of 1 June, UNHCR assistance to the ERC includes a total of **140,800** bottles of water (40,000 1.5L bottles and 100,000 0.6L bottles), **10,000** hygiene kits<sup>1</sup> and **5,000** packs of sanitary napkins.

## Main needs and gaps

The situation on the Sudanese side of the border is reportedly concerning, as conditions continue to deteriorate. The Egyptian authorities have taken the necessary measures to expedite the entry process, although the large numbers of new arrivals remain a challenge in terms of processing capacity. UNHCR observations also indicate that conditions at the Sudanese side of the border continue to deteriorate due to lack of water, food, WASH facilities, and speculation on the higher costs of the buses from Sudan to Egypt, all resulting in people being held for long periods of time in dire conditions.

## Financial information

UNHCR is grateful to the donors who have contributed to its operation in Egypt, including in response to the Sudan situation. Ongoing support is critical to help families rebuild their lives. UNHCR is urgently appealing for **\$151.4 million** to support its response, including to the emergency across Egypt, with little contributions received to date.

**DONATE NOW**

**CONTACT:** UNHCR Public Information and External Relations Unit – [arecapi@unhcr.org](mailto:arecapi@unhcr.org)  
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<sup>1</sup> A kit contains a small towel, soap, tissues, wipes, a razor, medical alcohol, and toothbrush with toothpaste